Resolutions of the 38th Session, Calcutta, 16-18 November, 1967

> Resolution II: The Commission notes with regret the delay in tightening up the law for the prevention of migration of archives and other materials of historical value to foreign countries. In view of the fact that everyday's delay in taking appropriate legislative measures is causing the country heavy loss of valuable materials, the Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested to promulgate an ordinance for the purpose.

Further to the discussion held at the 40th Session (1970), it may be stated that the Antiquities and the Art Treasures Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha on 25th August 1972 to amend the Antiquities (Export-Control) Act, 1947, also includes in the definition of Antiquity under Para 2(I) (a)(II) the following: "any manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value which has been in existence for not less than seventy-five years".

Also a separate draft Bill entitled: "Records of National Importance (Regulation of Export) Act of 1972" is under the active consideration of the Government of India.

> Resolution V: The Commission heartily welcomes the recent decisions of the Government of India in respect of access to the records of the Ministries of Home and External Affairs and expresses the hope that the other Ministries of the Government of India would take similar action at an early date.
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> Further, the Commission resolves that the State Governments be requested to fall in line with the Union Government and frame rules on the subject in conformity with those in force in the National Archives of India.

Further to the report submitted before the 41st Session, a fresh circular was issued to all the State Archives. The latest position regarding their Research Rules is given below:

Andhra Pradesh: 40 years old records are open for research. Less than 40 years old records (both confidential and non-confidential) can be consulted only with special permission.

Assam: Non-confidential records of 40 years old are open for research. Non-confidential records which are 30 years old can be consulted with special permission, but non-confidential records relating to Freedom Movement and Partition of India are open upto 1947. (These revised rules came into effect from 11 March, 1970).

Jammu & Kashmir: All pre-1925 records are open for consultation.

Bihar: 30 years old records are open for research.

Goa, Daman and Diu: 30 years old records are open for research. The Directorate of Archives, Goa is following the Research Rules of the National Archives of India.

Delhi: The Research Rules are not yet framed. At present National Archives of India rules are being followed as far as practicable. Fresh rules will be framed when Delhi Archives is fully established.

Kerala: Non-confidential records which are 10 years old are open for consultation in accordance with the revised rules which came into force with effect from 16 April, 1971.

Maharashtra: Records only upto 1916 are open, and post-1916 records can be consulted only with special permission. Further revision of rules is under consideration of the State Government.

Orissa: Only pre-1857 records are open for research without censorship. The State is considering opening for research all records which are more than 50 years old.

Punjab: Records upto the year 1901 are open for research. Special permission is needed to consult the records of a later date. Proposal for revision of the above rules is under consideration.

Rajasthan: Pre-1935 non-confidential records only are open. Proposal to revise these rules is under consideration of the State Government.

Tamil Nadu: According to the revised rules effective from April 1970, records which are 50 years old are open.

Uttar Pradesh: Records are open generally upto 1935, but records of various courts concerning criminal cases are open only when they are 70 years old, and records concerning boundaries of State, fortifications and topography can be consulted only with special permission, apparently irrespective of their age. The proposal to revise these rules is under consideration of the State Government.

West Bengal: 40 years old records are open, except those relating to sensitive border areas. Excerpts taken from post-1901 records are released only after scrutiny. Proposals for opening records upto 30 years old are under considdration.

> Resolution IX: The Commission resolves that the Government of Orissa be requested to negotiate with the ex-ruling families of the former Princely States of the State to ensure proper preservation of their family papers and erstwhile State records and obtain access to scholars for purposes of research.

Further to the discussion held at the 41st Session (1971) the Superintendent of Orissa State Archives was requested to furnish the progress made on the subject.

The Superintendent has informed that he had contacted the Raja Sahebs of Manjusa and Parikud in 1971, as a result of which some family papers were acquired from them. He also

contacted the Raja Saheb of Boudh, Khariar and Badagada in this connection.

> Resolution:X: The Commission resolves that all necessary steps be taken by the Regional Records Survey Committees and the State Archives to find out which business houses or private businessmen are willing to make their records available for research, prepare a preliminary inventory of such records, and help in their arrangement and preservation.

Further to the discussion held at the 41st Session (1971) the National Archives of India made efforts to acquire the papers of the Osman Shahi and Azam Jahi Mills, an old firm at Secunderabad, and the House of Haribhaktis at Baroda. Shri Sajan Lal of Secunderabad was contacted in connection with the acquisition of the papers of Osman Shahi and Azam Jahi Mills, but the matter had to be dropped on hearing from him that the papers of the Company were not at all useful. As for the papers of the House of Haribhaktis, nothing definite has been learnt so far. Information about the action taken by the various Regional Records Survey Committees and State Archives Departments on the above resolution will be reported to the Commission as and when received.

Resolutions of the 39th Session, Patna, 25-27 December, 1968

> Resolution II: The Commission resolves that the State Governments, where they have not already done so, be requested to include 'Development of Archives' as a State Plan item immediately, as recommended by the Government of India, so that sufficient attention is paid to this important aspect of both administrative and cultural importance, and that Central aid as provided for other plan schemes, is provided for it.
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> Being of the view that provision of properly planned commodious archival buildings is a first primary step required for organised development of Central archival repositories, the Commission further recommends that construction of archival buildings should be included as a Plan item and accorded the highest priority, both by the Government of India and the State Governments.